

November 5, 1999

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3064,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 1999*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my profound disappointment with the legislative process in this chamber and the bill that is before us today.

In the House of Representatives, we have one primary duty—to pass the thirteen annual appropriations bills. Today, one day before the scheduled adjournment date, we have not yet completed our work on five of the thirteen. To add insult to injury, we are being asked to vote on a “pre-conferenced” Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that this House has not the opportunity to debate and amend under regular order.

To say that the bill before us today misrepresents national priorities would be false—in fact, the bill before us today represents no priorities. Perhaps, if the House had an opportunity to address this bill in the normal fashion—with debate, amendment and compromise—the House could have come to consensus as it has for the past 105 Congresses. Of course the federal government can cut 1% of fat—but to blindly cut that 1% across the board is lazy and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, the priorities of the Kansans that I represent are ill-served by this ham-handed approach to legislating that is before us today. This bill would block grant the class-size reduction initiative enacted by Congress last year, and deny \$200 million needed to hire 8,000 new teachers. A 1% across-the-board reduction would cut benefits for 71,000 needy individuals benefiting from supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). It would result in 1.3 million fewer “Meals on Wheels” delivered to shut-in seniors and 4,888 fewer low-income children being able to benefit from the highly successful Head Start program.

I am voting against this bill today hoping that the House will go back to the drawing board and, like the Senate, set responsible spending levels that reflect our priorities as a nation.

IN HONOR OF THE WEST HOBOKEN  
SOCIAL & ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY, ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Hoboken Social & Athletic Association of Union City, New Jersey, for its hard work and dedicated service to the community for the past fifty years.

Organized after World War II to reunite friends and foster continued camaraderie, the WHSA championed public and private causes

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

in an effort to follow its motto, “service to the community.”

During the early years, the association sponsored several sports teams to encourage youth involvement in athletics. Today, it continues that tradition by offering youth athletic programs and positive adult role models as coaches. The WHSA was instrumental in providing the necessary financial aid and guidance to one young athlete who competed in the World Special Olympics.

The WHSA has developed programs to help the members of their communities by providing a summer camp program for underprivileged children, awarding savings bonds to school children for higher education with the “Edward Trevelese History Award,” and organizing companionship and entertainment for the elderly through the “Walter Scarpetta Nursing Home Volunteers” program. The WHSA continues to work with other organizations and charities such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and United Cerebral Palsy, providing expertise, leadership, and support.

For its service to the residents of the West Hoboken community in the State of New Jersey, and its long tradition of active leadership, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the West Hoboken Social & Athletic Association and all of its members as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
PEGGY RODGERS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Peggy Rodgers. Peggy is a community activist who has dedicated her time to assisting people in need. As a volunteer in State Senator John Sampson's office, she focuses on helping senior citizens and homeless people. She diligently works on finding adequate housing for senior citizens and the homeless.

Peggy is a hard working model citizen. After graduating from Canarsie High School, she went on to attend Brooklyn College. At Brooklyn College, Peggy recognized her interest in business, and, as a result, she decided to pursue an education at the Robert Finance Business Institute, where she received a certificate in Business Management. Upon completion of her studies, Peggy worked at Merrill Lynch Brokerage Firm in Accounts Receivable.

The commitment and drive exhibited by Peggy continues to greatly benefit our community. She understands that one must remain politically active in order to bring about improvements in our society. She has been out in the trenches struggling to ensure that competent, qualified, and concerned people hold the elected positions in her community. She continues to function as an active member of the Breukelen Tenants Association.

In describing Peggy, I would have to use the words, motivated, cooperative, and charitable. The needs of other people are paramount to Peggy. I commend Peggy Rodgers

and pray that she will succeed in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COMMAND  
SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD W.  
BEDFORD—A REAL AMERICAN  
HERO

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, our society has cheapened the name of heroes today by elevating millionaire movie, music and sports stars while ignoring those Americans who perform unselfish acts of courage and sacrifice. I wish to pay tribute to an American whose character and actions truly define heroism.

On September 2, the 54th anniversary of VJ-DAY, U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Donald W. Bedford, began a 1,500 mile journey from Mobile, Alabama to Washington, DC. His trek, which takes him through six states and the District of Columbia, is remarkable because it is entirely on foot. But CSM Bedford is not walking this enormous distance to set any record. Instead, he is striding the 71-day route to bring attention to and raise funding for the construction of a national memorial to honor America's greatest generation of heroes—those who fought in World War II.

Bedford, an ex-airborne infantryman now stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama in my congressional district, came up with the idea of the walk after learning that there was no national memorial for the 16 million Americans who served and sacrificed to liberate the world from Nazi and Japanese occupation in World War II. His efforts to help raise money for the on-going World War II Memorial fund have gained the support of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, and the praise of former Senator Bob Dole, who chairs the World War II Memorial Committee.

CSM Bedford's journey of 2,792,000 steps will take him through 144 cities and 15 military installations before he arrives at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11. From there, he will cross Memorial Bridge, pass by the Lincoln Memorial, and then proceed to the spot on the national mall where the World War II Memorial will be built next year.

I salute CSM Bedford for his personal sacrifice and dedication to America's greatest generation and I join all Americans in welcoming him to Washington this Veterans' Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Monday, November 1, 1999, and Tuesday, November 2, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 550 through 556. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 550, “yes” on rollcall vote 551, “no” on rollcall vote 552, “yes” on rollcall vote